

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00990 311004Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/071 W

-----022432 311009Z /10

O R 310850Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8600
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0990

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IC
SUBJECT: SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ABANDON EFFORT TO FORM GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) REYKJAVIK 0987 DTG 281624Z JUL 78
(B) REYKJAVIK 0954 DTG 211722Z JUL 78

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP),
PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (PA), AND PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP) MET FOR
BRIEF FINAL SESSION JULY 29 AND FORMALLY ENDED NEGOTIATIONS
AIMED AT FORMING COALITION GOVERNMENT AMONG THEM. SDP
CHAIRMAN BENEDIKT GRONDAL THEN MET WITH PRESIDENT ELDJARN
AND RETURNED MANDATE TO FORM MAJORITY GOVERNMENT THAT HE
RECEIVED JULY 12. GRONDAL SAID HE HAD TRIED TO FORM ONE
OF TWO COALITIONS--EITHER SDP-PA-PP, OR, PRIOR TO THAT, ONE
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CONSISTING OF SDP, PA, AND INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP).
GRONDAL DECLARED HIS EFFORTS HAD FAILED OWING TO FUNDAMENTAL
DISAGREEMENTS AMONG PARTIES ON IMPORTANT ISSUES
(PRINCIPALLY ECONOMIC). PRESIDENT ELDJARN DECLARED THAT
HE WOULD USE WEEKEND TO CONSIDER NEXT STEP AND WOULD MAKE HIS
DECISION KNOWN EARLY IN WEEK.

2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT IS NOW EXPECTED TO TURN TO IP
CHAIRMAN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON AS HEAD OF LARGEST PARTY IN
ALTHING (20 SEATS) AND ASK HIM TO ATTEMPT TO FORM
GOVERNMENT. IF PRESIDENT DOES, BELIEF IS THAT HALLGRIMSSON
WILL TURN FIRST TO SDP AS POTENTIAL PARTNER. WE BELIEVE,
HOWEVER, SDP WOULD CONTINUE HAVE STRONG RESERATIONS ABOUT
RECONSTITUTING OLD TWO-PARTY COALITION WITH IP, WHICH WAS
IN OFFICE 1959-71.

BLAKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, PARTY LINE, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
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Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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